

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



June 12, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

U.S. ready to begin rebuilding Iraq army

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - The task of building a new Iraqi military will get under way in the next few weeks at selected training and recruiting sites, the American administrator of Iraq said Thursday.

Speaking over a satellite video hookup from Baghdad, L. Paul Bremer said the project will serve not only to restore a necessary element of Iraq's long-term security but also address the short-term problem of hundreds of thousands of former Iraqi soldiers being without work since the war.

Unemployment more broadly is a "tremendous problem" in postwar Iraq, Bremer said, with far more than half the working-age population jobless. He said a recently announced \$100 million emergency

construction program was the most efficient way of getting people back to work quickly.

"This is where our greatest challenge lies, and we must now create jobs for Iraqis," Bremer said in a 30-minute question-and-answer session with reporters at the Pentagon. He made the same point earlier Thursday in a similar session with members of the House Armed Services Committee.

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Famed 507th unit returns home from war

by Laura Cruz, El Paso Times

Fort Bliss' 507th Maintenance Company, which suffered some of the heaviest losses during Operation Iraqi Freedom, returned home today.

The 507th, mechanics and support units, was deployed to Iraq Feb. 17.

On March 23, a group from the maintenance company was ambushed near Nasiriyah, nine were killed, six were taken prisoner and four were wounded. The attack marked one of the deadliest fire fights for American forces during the war.

Five of the POWs were shown on international television and their whereabouts were not known until one was rescued in a commando-style attack on a hospital in Nasiriyah. In that rescue, Pfc. Jessica Lynch of Palestine, W.Va., was found wounded and was taken to Germany and later to Washington D.C for treatment. The other POWs were found on April 13 near the city of Tikrit.

The five POWs were in relatively good health and returned to Fort Bliss on April 19. The nine soldiers who were killed were laid to rest in their hometowns. Two were from the El Paso area. Pvt. Ruben Estrella-Soto, 18, of El Paso, and Chief Warrant Officer Johnny

Villareal Mata, 35, of Pecos, were among those killed in the ambush.

At Fort Bliss today four of the former POWs - Spc. Edgar A. Hernandez, 21, of Alton, Texas, Spc. Joseph N. Hudson, 23, of Alamogordo, Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, of Kansas, and Sgt. James J. Riley, 31, of New Jersey - were waiting to greet the rest of the 507th. Spc. Shoshana N. Johnson is in Washington D.C. where she will be honored by the Congressional Black Caucus.

"This is a wonderful day," said Cynthia King, wife of Capt. Troy King, commander of the 507th. "We're so glad they are coming home and this is the last arrival (of 507th soldiers) for us."

About 300 people awaited the arrival of the 507th soldiers and the 11th brigade, which includes other units. About 200 soldiers arrived at Biggs Army Airfield Thursday at 10 a.m. The remainder of Fort Bliss units still deployed to the Middle East should return by the end of this month, according to Jean Offutt, spokeswoman for Fort Bliss.

Ana Lucia Speer, 8, eagerly waited to see her father.

"I miss my daddy because he was gone for long time," said the daughter of Chief Warrant Officer David Speer, of the 507th. "I'm going to give him a hug and tell him 'thank you for defending us.'"

U.S. ready to begin rebuilding Iraq army continued

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"This is where our greatest challenge lies, and we must now create jobs for Iraqis," Bremer said in a 30-minute question-and-answer session with reporters at the Pentagon. He made the same point earlier Thursday in a similar session with members of the House Armed Services Committee.

Many of the questions Bremer took from the Armed Services Committee members focused on the security problems facing U.S. troops and the prospects for turning Iraq over to the Iraqis.

Rep. Ike Skelton, D-Mo., the ranking Democrat on the panel, said he is deeply troubled by the security situation.

"Not a day goes by when one of our soldiers isn't killed, and we need a plan for security in Iraq, in part to protect our troops but also to bring stability to the Iraqi people," Skelton said. He demanded the administration spell out the size and duration of the U.S. troop commitment there.

"Providing security is a long-term commitment; we know that," Skelton said. "We need a plan for how many U.S. troops will be

needed - how many months, how many years to come."

Bremer told Pentagon reporters there is no way to know how long the United States will have to remain involved in Iraq's reconstruction. The key, he said, is getting to the point where a new Iraqi constitution is written and ratified and national elections are held.

"My guess is that it's going to be a substantial amount of time but whether that's in maybe months or years, it would depend on developments. I don't think we should set any artificial deadlines," he said.



U.S. Administrator for Iraq Paul Bremer, left, tours the British Army-run Al Ma'aqal prison in Basra, during a visit to southern Iraq, Wednesday, June 11, 2003. (AP Photo/Chris Helgren, Pool)

Bremer made these other points:

- It probably is too early to hold a national reconciliation conference. "My impression in conversations I've had so far is that the Iraqis are simply still too understandably emotionally delighted to be rid of Saddam and the Baathists that they may not yet be ready to undertake that step."

- The nature of the economic system

that Iraq establishes will be entirely up to the Iraqis. "If they choose socialism, that will be their business. My guess is that's not going to happen."

- The failure so far to capture or otherwise account for Saddam Hussein has hurt the U.S. occupation effort. "I think it does make a difference because it allows the Baathists to go around in the bazaars and in the villages, which they are doing, saying Saddam is alive and he's going to come back," he said. "The effect of that is to make it more difficult for people who are afraid of the Baathists - and that's just about everybody - ... to come forward and cooperate with us."



An American soldier takes picture of his colleague with two soldiers of the 3rd Afghan National Army Mechanised Battalion during their graduation ceremony at a military base in Kabul, Afghanistan, Thursday, June 12, 2003. About 540 Afghan soldiers including officers and soldiers were graduated. (AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)



**Korean War
Veterans Stamp
Release Date:
July 27, 2003**

UN exempts U.S. soldiers from prosecution for year

By Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - The U.N. Security Council on Thursday approved an exemption for U.S. peacekeepers from prosecution by the new International Criminal Court for another year with France, Germany and Syria abstaining.

Despite 12 votes in favor, France and Germany resisted U.S. warnings to support the resolution, thereby rekindling a dispute that began when both countries opposed the war in Iraq.

The other European Union members, Britain and Spain, voted "yes," as did Bulgaria, a candidate for the EU, which had been a prime mover behind the ICC to be set up in The Hague, Netherlands, later this year.

"The ICC is not the law," U.S. representative James Cunningham told the council. "In our view, it is a fatally flawed institution."

The council last year voted 15-0 to grant immunity from prosecution to peacekeepers in U.N.-backed missions from countries that had not approved the treaty for the ICC. At that time, the Bush administration threatened to veto all U.N. peacekeeping missions, one by one.

A total of 90 countries so far have ratified the treaty creating the ICC, the first permanent global criminal tribunal. It was set up to try perpetrators for the world's worst atrocities — genocide, mass war crimes and systematic human rights abuses and will be in operation in The Hague this year.

The Bush administration rescinded former President Bill Clinton's signature to the ICC treaty, fearing U.S. troops and officials abroad would be the target of frivolous suits.

France and Germany, however, argued that the council should not automatically renew the exemption each year or risk defying the statutes that set up the court. France had voted "yes" last year but Germany was not a member of the council then.



'A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE'

"For us it was a matter of principle," said Germany's U.N. ambassador, Gunter Pleuger, whose country was in the forefront of organizing the court, based on the principles of the Nuremberg Nazi war crime trials at the end of World War II.

France's Michel Duclos said his country changed its vote because the elections of judges and a prosecutor "left no room for doubt" about the credibility of the court or that it might be politically motivated.

Even close ally Britain said the resolution would not be automatically renewed but said the measure was an "acceptable outcome in what is for the council a difficult situation."

"Whilst we understand U.S. concerns about the International Criminal Court, we do not share them," Britain's Sir Jeremy Greenstock said.

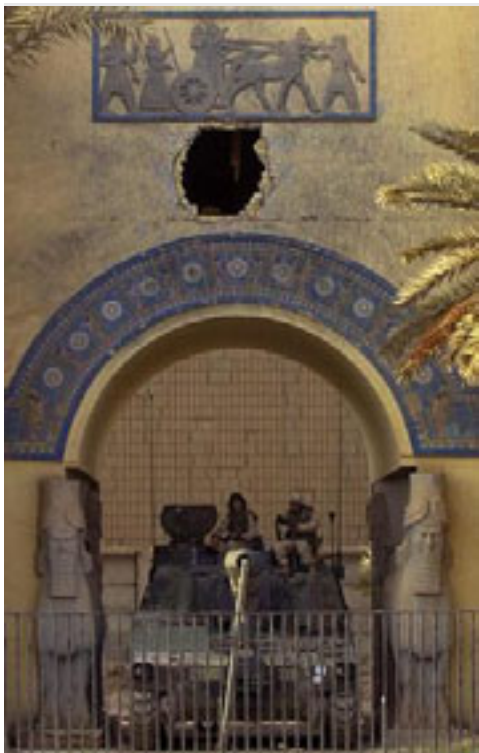
Cunningham said the U.S. stand was "consistent with a fundamental principle of international law — the need for a state to consent if it is to be bound."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan as well as Canada, Jordan, South Africa and other countries without council seats argued that the resolution bordered on illegality. The council, they said, could exempt nations from prosecutions on a specific issue, such as a conflict the body was considering.

The ICC treaty ""was not intended to cover such a sweeping request but only a more specific request relating to a particular situation," Annan said.

"But allow me to express the hope that this does not become an annual routine, he said. "If that were to happen, it would undermine not only the authority of the ICC but also the authority of this council and the legitimacy of United Nations peacekeeping."

(Irwin Arieff contributed to this report)



U.S. troops guard the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad, Thursday, June 12, 2003. The sacred Vase of Warka, a centerpiece of the museum's collection, was returned to the museum Thursday. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

Go Ordinance!

U.S. helicopter is shot down in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraqi forces shot down a U.S. helicopter gunship in western Iraq on Thursday, just hours after U.S. fighter jets bombed what they said was "a terrorist training camp" in central Iraq.

The incidents came as U.S. ground troops wound up a massive sweep in a Sunni Muslim enclave north of Baghdad, aimed at routing out the organizers of attacks on occupation forces. Thursday's events marked a sharp escalation of U.S. military operations in central and western Iraq, where guerrillas have intensified attacks on U.S. troops in recent weeks.

"It's one of the largest operations since the war," U.S. Central Command spokesman Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald said.

The downed AH-64 Apache helicopter belonged to the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, a Central Command statement said. A pair of Apaches fired on "irregular forces" at the crash scene, while U.S. ground troops secured the site and rescued the uninjured two-man crew.

It was the first aircraft shot down by ground fire since Saddam Hussein was ousted two months ago. Central Command did not say exactly where it went down.

Hours earlier, at about 1:45 a.m., U.S. planes attacked a site they described as a terror camp 95 miles north of Baghdad, according to Central Command. A firefight broke out, and one coalition soldier



Local residents watch a Bradley fighting vehicle rumble down the town square at Duluiyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday June 12, 2003. (AP Photo/ Saurabh Das)

was slightly injured. The statement did not give any Iraqi casualty figures.

Meanwhile, in the third day of an assault dubbed "Operation Peninsula Strike," thousands of American troops swept through an area centered on the Tigris River town of Duluiyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad.

Ten to 15 Iraqis were killed in the sweep, and four U.S. soldiers suffered gunshot wounds, said U.S. Sgt. Forest Geary. Three of the injured Americans were flown to Germany for medical care, he said.

Fighter jets, attack helicopters and unmanned aerial drones backed up ground troops during the operation, in which about 400 people have been captured in three days of strikes.

Fitzgerald said he had no information on the capture of any of the top 55 most wanted members of Saddam's regime. He said U.S. officials armed with intelligence on particular suspects were still questioning those captured. Prisoners deemed not hostile will be released, he said.

Interrogators are "working with information that has directed the finger toward these suspects," Fitzgerald said. "If we believe they're dangerous and will cause problems for the Iraqi people or coalition forces, we'll keep them for further information."

The heavily wooded area provided good cover for ambushers, but the searches failed to turn up more than a few light arms and rocket propelled grenades, weaponry commonly found all over Iraq, said



U.S. troops from the 173th Airborne division move out of a temporary base to patrol Duluiyah, a city about 45 miles (70 kilometers) north of Baghdad, Thursday, June 12, 2003. Ground troops were backed up by fighter jets, attack helicopters and unmanned aerial drones during an operation dubbed "Operation Peninsula Strike" that started Monday morning and in which about 400 people were captured. U.S. troops turned several homes into temporary bases since the raid Monday. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

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Retiring Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Eric K. Shinseki reviews the "The Old Guard" during a full honor review in Ft. Myer, Va., on Wednesday. AP Photo by Charles Dharapak.

U.S. helicopter is shot down in Iraq continued

troops involved in the operation.

"When we came down here we really expected the worse. That has not been the reality," said Sgt. Todd Oliver, of the 173rd Airborne Division. "We came here searching houses and knocking down doors. If they were here, they're gone now."

No Americans have been killed in the operation, Fitzgerald said.

The region north and west of Baghdad is part of the so-called Sunni triangle, the heartland of support for Saddam's now-banned Baath Party and not far from ex-leader's hometown of Tikrit. Saddam is a Sunni Muslim.

Some 1,500 troops from the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division were sent to Fallujah, a Sunni city of some 200,000 people, and the neighboring towns of Khaldiayah and Habaniyah.

Since U.S. forces entered Fallujah in April, four American soldiers have been killed and 21 wounded by insurgents and U.S. troops have killed at least 23 Iraqis and wounded 78 wounded.

In Habaniyah, a top U.S. commander said his men have made significant progress in restoring security.

"There are three elements we are having to deal with, first armed bandits, second former Baath Party officials are paying people to

attack us, and then the Fedayeen," said Maj. Gen. Buford Blount III, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division. The Fedayeen were a paramilitary force set up by Saddam's regime.

U.S. intelligence has made progress in figuring out which groups are responsible for which attacks and U.S. troops are working to dismantle them, Blount said.

Anecdotal evidence such as large amounts of cash seized during arrests of militants suggests that someone is paying the militants to attack U.S. troops, said Sgt. Brian Thomas, a U.S. Army spokesman in Baghdad.

The attackers have used guerrilla tactics allowing them to strike U.S. military vehicles and escape. They also appeared to be coordinating raids with signaling devices, including flares, military officials said.

Duluiyah, largely untouched during the war, is said to be a likely place of refuge for Saddam die-hard fighters.

In another development Thursday, Central Command said that a U.S. F-16 fighter-bomber crashed early southwest of Baghdad.

The statement said the pilot ejected safely and was rescued by ground forces. It said the cause of the incident was being investigated.

Myers: War on terrorism is 'toughest challenge' yet

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2003 - The war on global terrorism, the U.S. military's top officer told National Defense University graduates here June 10, is the most difficult national security challenge he's experienced in his career.



It is, indeed, "a remarkable time" in American history, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said to the university's Class of 2003.

"In my view, it's certainly the toughest challenge, these last couple of years, that I've ever faced in my 38 years in uniform," Myers, the event's

featured speaker, asserted.

Myers first paid a tribute to the institution's outgoing president, Navy ViceAdm. Paul G. Gaffney II.

The admiral's two years of leadership at NDU "has been vigorous," Myers remarked, noting that Gaffney's perseverance, dedication and professionalism at the university have contributed "to make it responsive to the security challenges that we face in the future."

And today's global security environment, shaped by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Myers noted to the 515 graduates, presents new and previously unheard of challenges for U.S. defense planners and diplomats alike.

In the aftermath of the terror attacks on New York City, the Pentagon, and the airliner crash in Pennsylvania, Myers remarked, the U.S. and other nations quickly formed an alliance "to fight terrorists and those that would harbor terrorists and provide them safe haven."

NDU graduates, he pointed out, "have had the opportunity to study and to debate the world's response to this war on terrorism."

Because of the global scope of the war on terrorism, the general suggested that NDU graduates should recognize the importance of the international students among them.

"The ties that you have formed over this year are going to hold for years to come as we wrestle with new and unforeseen challenges to peace and prosperity," Myers explained.

More than 60 countries "have contributed in meaningful ways" in

partnership with the United States in prosecuting the war on terrorism, he noted.

"And it must continue to be an international team effort if we're going to be successful," Myers said.

The JCS chairman also had a message to NDU's international student graduates, whom he noted have acquired "an expanded understanding of national security, including the complex interactions required to implement that strategy."

"The lessons you've learned here apply to your countries, as well," he noted.

The war against global terrorism continues, Myers pointed out, noting, "there are still terrorists out there who want to do us harm."

Terrorists, the general emphasized, "will use violence against the innocent." In recent weeks, he pointed out, more than 50 people, including Muslims, Christians and Jews were killed in terror attacks against civilians in Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Israel.

U.S. and coalition forces have achieved significant victories in Afghanistan and Iraq. Yet it is paramount, Myers emphasized, "that we don't let our successes lull us into a sense of complacency." He emphasized that "the war on terrorism is far from over."

Another modern-day threat to global security involves the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the general remarked, noting that some countries with WMD programs "would let these weapons fall into the hands of terrorists."

Civilized nations of the world "simply cannot afford to let this happen," the JCS chairman said. Enemies of peace, he continued, would likely use WMDs to kill innocent civilians, destabilize the global economy, or simply for blackmail.

Other threats to world peace include ethnic, religious, and political strife, Myers pointed out.

Also, "economies and governments struggle — and sometimes falter — providing fertile ground for terrorists or repressive regimes," he added.

Regarding the myriad threats to global peace and stability, Myers noted that the only certainty is "that the challenges of tomorrow will be different than the challenges of today." However, "we can still apply today's lessons to better plan for tomorrow," the chairman concluded.

NDU graduates are senior military, and federal civilian and private-sector leaders, according to the facility's Website at <http://www.ndu.edu>.

NDU graduates have earned a master's degree from the National War College or the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, both which are at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

Korea — 50 years ago this week, June 12-18, 1953

South Korea releases anti-communist prisoners, delays truce

by Jim Caldwell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 12, 2003) - As the conflict continued in Korea, a truce seemed further off as South Korean President Syngman Rhee persisted in opposing truce talks, 50 years ago this week.

June 12-18, 1953 — The Reds are trying to push the U.N. main line of resistance farther south in selected locations. Their main effort is concentrated in the ROK II Corps zone, between the U.S. IX and X Corps. The Chinese began their offensive on June 10. Their army commanders have already shown that they're willing to keep reinforcing their combat forces until they finally wear down Eighth Army troops.

On June 12 the Chinese apply pressure on the ROK 21st Regiment, 8th Infantry Division. The 8th ID holds the line on 5th ID's left flank.

The attack against the regiment begins with two companies against its outposts. The Reds throw in three more companies. They overrun the outposts and then penetrate the MLR positions.

On the morning of June 13, two ROK battalions counterattack, but they can't push the Chinese back. Two Chinese companies attack in the afternoon, driving the regiment farther back.

All the next day the regiment repels attack after attack. At night on June 14, a reinforced enemy battalion surrounds the 21st IR's 3rd Battalion, fragmenting the unit into small groups of men who fight on. The 3rd Battalion suffers the same fate.

What's left of the regiment behind the lines pulls together a new, fragile MLR.

To the east of the 5th ID, the ROK 20th ID, which is in the X Corps part of the line, has also been under attack since June 10 but on June 12 the enemy assault is heavier.

The 20th ID's 61st Regiment holds a series of hills in the Christmas Hills complex. They've lost Hill 1220 despite a counterattack.

Lt. Gen. Isaac D. White, X Corps commander, sends the corps reserve, the ROK 7th ID, to take over the line between the 5th and 20th IDs.

An enemy division attacks the 5th and 20th again on June 14. The attack forces the 5th ID to fall back below the Pukhan River. The rapid withdrawal leaves the 7th's left flank exposed.

The enemy fails to take advantage of the break in the front. Artillery and close air support concentrates on those units in front of the 5th

to give the 7th enough time to move its left flank to re-establish contact with its sister division.

On June 15 the 8th ID moves part of its forces a mile south to reestablish a line on the 5th ID's western flank. The ROK 3rd ID is ordered into the line and takes over two of its regiments already there.

The X Corps assumes operational control of the 5th ID, and immediately begins resupplying the hard-hit South Koreans. Since ground transportation is impossible, 12 H-19 helicopters carry a quarter of a million pounds of supplies to the battered South Koreans.

For the next three days enemy attacks are not as large and as intense. The offensive moves they do make are blunted.

By the time the Chinese stop the all-out assaults, they have pushed the South Koreans back 3,000 meters on a 13,000-meter front. The ROK divisions suffered more than 7,300 casualties against an estimated 6,000 Chinese killed and wounded.

South Korean soldiers have come a long way since the early

days of the war. Such an offensive then would have sent ROK troops into panicked retreat. They're still making mistakes, but now they hit back instead of turning and running from the Chinese. The ROK Army has adapted U.S. Army officer and noncommissioned officer leadership development and training, and improved basic training. Korea Military Advisory Group personnel observe the action and pinpoint the areas where the ROK Army needs to do better.

On June 18, communist propaganda loudspeakers all along the front broadcast the news that the armistice will be signed June 25, the third anniversary of the war.

June 12-18 — Staff officers from both sides at Panmunjom begin the week deciding where the line of demarcation will be. That will enable the enemy at the end of the week to boast of an armistice. Their work begins during the height of the Chinese attacks on ROK II Corps units.

Lt. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, U.S. Eighth Army commander, tells troops on June 14 they must stay at their battle positions during an armistice "until it is definitely established that the fighting will not be resumed."

Marine Corps Col. James C. Murray, leader of the U.N. staff officers, tells the communist team on June 15, "The action of any one side in



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Spain pledges troops to Polish division

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

BRUSSELS, Belgium, June 12, 2003 – Spain today pledged 1,100 troops to the Polish-led division that will become part of the coalition force in Iraq.



NEWS ARTICLES

At the NATO defense ministerial, Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo-Figueroa y Martínez-Conde confirmed his country would provide the military aid.

NATO has already agreed to help Poland with the force. The alliance will not have any permanent presence in Iraq, but will aid Poland in supporting roles. These include help with force generation, communications, logistics and movements, said NATO officials.

Poland volunteered to form the division. A Polish brigade will be the nucleus for the division, which could ultimately number between 7,000 and 9,000 soldiers, according to Polish officials.

Ukraine has also volunteered to contribute 1,700 troops, and Hungary will provide 500, along with 800 from Honduras and El Salvador. Several other countries have also volunteered smaller numbers.

Force-generation conferences will occur over the next few weeks to figure out in what particular areas that NATO will be able to support the Poles, officials said.

U.S. officials are pleased both with Poland's decision to form the division and with NATO's offer of support.

"We are enthusiastic about NATO's decision to help the Poles," said a senior DoD official speaking on background. "It's a big step for NATO. It's a strong commitment to a new ally who is stepping up to very important responsibilities and it will be viewed as very helpful to the coalition. It's a winner all around as far as we're concerned."

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South Korea releases anti-communist prisoners, delays truce continued

seeking to improve the position during the negotiation of the demarcation line could easily lead to a situation which would delay the determination of the line indefinitely. We think it is preferable to settle on the basis of the present disposition."

With fighting in the ROK II Corps area subsiding on June 16, the two sides work out an agreement where the line should be on a map and recommend to leaders of the main negotiating team that it be accepted.

Both sides agree on the proposed demarcation line on June 17, and formally adopt the full agenda of issues that were before them when talks began July 10, 1951. But a truce will not be signed on the third anniversary of the war.

On June 17 Gen. Mark W. Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander, names four U.S. flag officers to serve on a U.N.-communist Military Armistice Commission. The commission will work with neutral observers to prevent violations of the truce. The officers are Maj. Gen. B.M. Bryan, commander of the 16th Corps in Japan, senior U.N. delegate; Rear Adm. W.K. Mendenhall, commander of a Western Pacific destroyer flotilla; Brig. Gen. E.H. Underhill, Fifth Air Force vice commander; and Brig. Gen. John P. Daley, artillery commander for the 2nd Infantry Division.

The officers leave Japan and arrive at Munsan, Korea, to set up their headquarters.

June 18 — South Korea President Syngman Rhee has been trying to derail the truce talks.

On June 18 he stages his latest attempt. Before dawn on June 18 South Korean guards at four prisoner of war camps on the mainland open the gates and set 25,000 North Korean anti-communists free.

About 5,000 prisoners remain in the compounds.

American guards try to stop the escape. They kill nine, injure 16 and round up 971 a few hours later.

Rhee announces the prisoners were released "on my own responsibility. According to the Geneva Convention and also to the principles of human right, the anti-communist Korean war prisoners should have been released long before this."

He tells reporters he didn't consult with the United States before ordering the release for reasons "too obvious to explain."

South Koreans are told to shelter and feed the released prisoners. No one, "regardless of nationality," will try to round up the escaped prisoners.

Lt. Gen. William K. Harrison, U.N. chief delegate at Panmunjom, informs his counterpart, North Korean Lt. Gen. Nam Il, of the mass prisoner release and explains that the South Korean government was responsible.

Nam refuses to believe the U.N. had been unaware of Rhee's actions and had "deliberately connived" with him. Instead of breaking off negotiations, however, Nam wanted to know if the U.N. command could control the South Korean Army and government. If they can't, does the armistice extend to the Rhee faction? If Rhee's group is not included under the truce, what guarantees do the communists have that South Korea will maintain the truce?

Harrison can't answer those questions and neither can his superiors. Rhee is the man with the answers.

(Editor's note: Jim Caldwell writes for the TRADOC News Service.)

Afghans: suicide attackers being trained

by Amir Shah

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Suicide attackers are being trained to carry out strikes against foreign soldiers in Afghanistan, the Interior Minister said Thursday.

Ali Ahmad Jalali made the comments at a news conference in Kabul, just days after a man driving a car packed with explosives attacked a bus carrying German peacekeepers on the city's eastern outskirts.

Four German soldiers and one Afghan civilian were killed in the

North Korea warns South Korea over border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea claimed South Korean war ships violated its territorial waters on Thursday, and warned of "an unpredictable crisis."

South Korea's Defense Ministry denied the charge.

In recent weeks, the two Koreas have exchanged accusations over a disputed western sea border, adding to tensions caused by the North's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

Two South Korean clippers and one patrol boat sailed into North Korean waters and stayed there for several hours Thursday, following similar incursions by 10 warships Tuesday and 20 warships Wednesday, said Pyongyang's official news agency KCNA, citing an unnamed "military source."

"If the South Korean military authorities misjudge the self-restraint of the North side and lead the situation in these waters to a tough-and-go situation, this will spark an unpredictable crisis," KCNA said.

North Korea has claimed the alleged violations were a "prelude" to what it calls U.S. plans to invade the communist state. It has warned that a naval clash could lead to war.

Seoul recently accused North Korean fishing boats of repeatedly entering its territorial waters and the South's navy has fired warning shots twice in the past few weeks.

The Korean nuclear crisis flared when U.S. officials said last October that North Korea admitted a secret nuclear weapons program.

The inter-Korean western sea border is not clearly marked and North Korean fishing boats have occasionally crossed into waters controlled by South Korea during the crab catching season, which peaks in June.

South Korea recognizes a sea border demarcated by the United Nations after the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea claims a boundary farther south.

The two sides' navies fought deadly skirmishes in the western sea in 1999 and 2002.

blast, while 29 German peacekeepers were wounded.

"There are efforts underway to train suicide bombers in order to be used in Afghanistan against foreign troops," Jalali said.

He gave no details as to where they were being trained or by whom, but said security forces in Kabul had recently foiled two other such plots.

One group was trying to fit a cart with explosives to detonate it "somewhere on the way where international forces are traveling," Jalali said. Another group was planning to attack peacekeepers or expatriate aid workers with a grenade launcher.

He did not give details.

In Berlin, German Defense Minister Peter Struck said the suicide attacker who carried out Saturday's attack was a member of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network. The bomber had links with forces of renegade warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the former Taliban regime - three groups staunchly opposed to Afghanistan's government.

President Hamid Karzai blamed foreign terrorists for Saturday's assault.

Still, no evidence of his nationality, or his identity, has been produced.

"We have found only pieces of his body. How can we say who he is?" Gen. Abdul Raouf Taj, a Kabul police commander said Wednesday.

In April, Afghan forces and peacekeepers said they'd seized five explosives-rigged trucks destined for suicide attacks. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party has also warned in recent months it would launch suicide attacks in Afghanistan.

About 5,000 international peacekeepers have been deployed in Kabul. Another 11,500 coalition troops, most of them Americans, are in the country to hunt down fugitive Taliban fighters.

U.S. on terror watch near Horn of Africa

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) - The U.S. Navy said Tuesday that it will increase its presence around the Horn of Africa to deter terrorists.

The U.S. Navy 5th Fleet sent a bulletin to merchant shippers informing them of the "increased military presence in response to ongoing counterterrorism operations" in the region, Lt. Garrett Kasper, a 5th Fleet spokesman, said.

"The increased military presence will serve as a deterrent for terrorists to rethink their potential actions," Kasper said.

Last month, President Bush listed the Horn of Africa as one region

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Marshall Center celebrates 10 years of service

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

GARMISCH, Germany, June 11, 2003 – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld spoke of the importance of international security cooperation at a joint American- German celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies today.

Vice President Dick Cheney – who as U.S. defense secretary sponsored the idea of the center – sent videotaped greetings to the center’s faculty and students.

In the tape Cheney explained the rationale behind the center. “Ten years ago East European and Eurasian nations were undergoing broad and far-reaching transformations,” he said. “The need to reach out to these emerging democracies was clear, and the Marshall Center fulfilled that need.”

He said the original thought was to help former Warsaw Pact nations learn how the military functions in a democracy. But with changing times, the mission of the center has changed.

“As all of you know, the world has changed profoundly over the last 10 years. The Cold War is over, but freedom-loving nations are being tested once again, this time by terrorist networks, terrorist states and the spread of weapons of mass destruction,” Cheney said.

The Marshall Center has changed its curricula to match the new threats. “No one can predict how long the war on terror will last, but its outcome is not in doubt: The forces of freedom will prevail,” Cheney noted in his taped message.

Rumsfeld said he was pleased to be at the Marshall Center to mark the historic joint U.S.-Germany effort “to strengthen the transatlantic alliance and to extend it deep into the heart and soul of Eurasia.”

A total of 13 defense ministers from across Europe attended the ceremony – including one – the Defense Minister of Georgia – who was a graduate of the Marshall Center. The center is named after the late U.S. general and statesman recognized as the architect of the U.S. assistance plan for post-World War II Europe.

Some 49 nations have sent students through the center’s doors. Rumsfeld pinpointed their contributions to the global war on terrorism. For example, 35 sent representatives to U.S. Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla. Thirty-three of these nations participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and 28 are contributing troops or other assistance to Iraq today. He pointed out that 29 nations are helping with security and humanitarian operations in Afghanistan.

The secretary said that many smaller, less fortunate nations of Europe are making “outsized” contributions to the war on terrorism. He said that even as those nations rebuild, “they have had the vision to look outward as well.”

Rumsfeld spoke about the transatlantic alliance and the future of

the relationship. He said that President Truman called the founding of NATO in 1949 “a neighborly act.” Rumsfeld said it has become more than neighborly – it is much like a family. He said more than just common interests tie the North Atlantic community together.

“We’re united by ties of blood and purpose and a common heritage of liberty and democratic self-government,” he said. “Ties that have been ... forged in war and sealed in struggle.

“And like a family, sometimes we don’t agree on everything,” he continued. “Sometimes we have debates and discussions. But when challenged, we need to come together as we did after September 11th.”

Rumsfeld praised the addition of new members to NATO. “The addition of each new nation brings new energy and new perspective to the alliance,” he said.

He said that the distinction between old and new in Europe is not a matter of age, but of attitude, and the vision that each country brings to the transatlantic relationship.

“Many nations in Europe – but not all – see the nexus of terror and weapons of mass destruction as a very serious threat and recognize that transatlantic unity is more critical than ever if we – collectively – are able to deal with those threats,” the secretary said.

“Most see the value of a robust transatlantic relationship. It is, I believe, compatible with European integration. It certainly is critical to our mutual security and to the success of our common interests.”

The secretary said that countries that recently experienced oppression are more willing to recognize these new threats and to choose to invest in military capabilities to counter these threats. The new countries that have been invited to join NATO are not junior partners, the secretary said; they are full members of the organization and often find themselves leading portions of the alliance.

For example, Rumsfeld said, “Poland is preparing to lead one of the divisions in Iraq – a 7,000-man force that will probably be comprised of forces from some 12 countries.”

He also singled out Romania, which was one of seven countries invited to join NATO in 2002, “has an infantry battalion deployed to Afghanistan and plans to deploy another to Iraq.” And he mentioned that Albania, where he had just visited June 10 with that nation’s defense officials to discuss its desire to become a full-fledged member of NATO, has forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The secretary said that the allies must work more closely today, “because the threats we face in the 21st century are of a nature that really no nation can face them alone,” he said.

The secretary used arms proliferation and North Korea as an example.

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Rumsfeld talks about dangers of ‘eroding’ sovereignty

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

GARMISCH, Germany, June 11, 2003 – Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld had harsh words for the International Criminal Court and a Belgium law that allows anyone to prosecute anyone for war crimes.

The secretary spoke at a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies here. He said the Belgian law is one example where nations are “eroding sovereignty.”

Rumsfeld said that the world must strengthen organizations that allow nations to cooperate against a threat, “we must take care to not damage the core principle that undergirds the international system – the principle of state sovereignty,” he said.

The secretary said he sees respect for the principle of sovereignty eroding. “We see it – in my view – in the International Criminal Courts claim of authority to try the citizens of countries that have not consented to ICC jurisdiction,” he said. “We see it in the new Belgian law purporting to give Belgian courts ‘universal jurisdiction’ over alleged war crimes anywhere in the world.”

Rumsfeld said that charges have already been filed against U.S. Central Command’s Army Gen. Tommy Franks. He called the law “dangerous” and said it has turned Belgium’s legal system into “a

platform for what I believe will be divisive, politicized lawsuits against officials of her NATO allies.”

Under the law, suits are pending against former President George H.W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Colin Powell – all arising from their leadership in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. “I suppose if George Marshall were alive, there would be suits against George Marshall in the Belgian courts,” he said.

He said erosion of sovereignty will erode the responsibilities nations have. “Too often the erosion of sovereignty gives states an excuse to take the easy way out – by blaming globalization, or punting responsibility to supranational organizations instead of taking responsibility for problems that originate from poor national governance,” he said.

Terrorists take advantage of this erosion and look for failed states that do not control their borders as places for their headquarters, training areas and planning sites, he said. “States have the responsibility to govern areas within their border,” he said.

“We need to be able to hold states accountable for their performances. Those who want to push sovereignty away can’t have it both ways: Either states are responsible for the governance of their countries or they are not.”

Marshall Center celebrates 10 years of service continued

North Korea is “the world’s foremost proliferator of ballistic missile technology,” he said. North Korea has also stated that it may sell nuclear weapons and materials.

“If free nations do not come to grips with the proliferation issue, it is possible that not so many years from now ... we could be living in a world with up to twice the number of nuclear powers and the reality that a number of the new nuclear powers could be terrorist states.”

Rumsfeld said the world needs new tools to deal with this threat. This includes authority to stop transactions in WMD capabilities and the willingness to strengthen regional and worldwide security cooperation.

The secretary said the world faces two challenges as it confronts the threats of the 21st century: First, leaders must strengthen states so they can effectively govern their territories. Second, leaders “must strengthen and reform institutions that facilitate multinational action” such as NATO and the alliance’s Partnership for Peace program.

“For a decade now, the Marshall Center has produced leaders who are willing to make these changes happen,” Rumsfeld said. “I have confidence that, with your vision and commitment, our successors a decade from now will be able to look back ... and say that free people rose to meet the challenges of a still dangerous and untidy world.”



French combat troops leading an international force meant to stem months of tribal violence in Bunia arrive at the Bunia airport in the Congo Tuesday, June 10, 2003. More than 700 French troops have arrived in Uganda in recent days from where they will be deployed to Bunia. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo)

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Dispute over bases threatens NATO reforms

by Paul Ames

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - A dispute over where to locate NATO bases is threatening to delay plans to slim down its command structure, considered essential to the alliance's military modernization.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and the other NATO defense ministers will seek to overcome the deadlock at a meeting at alliance headquarters Thursday and Friday.

The streamlining of commands is part of a military transformation under debate within NATO as the alliance seeks to shift its focus away from the static forces of the Cold War and toward more agile units able to respond to sudden, unpredictable threats. It also will help NATO project power around the world.

"This will be the most radical restructuring of NATO since NATO was created," the alliance's secretary-general, Lord Robertson, said

last week. "It's a huge program ... savagely sliced down from the old structures."

To that end, the defense ministers are set to push forward plans to create a 20,000 strong NATO response force for the alliance's military might. They also will review efforts to beef up Europe's outdated military equipment by acquiring big transport planes, precision weapons and electronic jamming gear.

All 19 allies have agreed to the changes at the top of NATO's military structure. The changes will unite the alliance operational command at its European headquarters in southern Belgium, while converting the old Atlantic headquarters in Norfolk, Va., into a "transformation headquarters" that will oversee the military modernization.

The allies also are set to agree this week on three regional headquarters in Naples, Italy; Brunssum, Netherlands; and Oeiras, Portugal.

However, plans to slash the number of regional headquarters from 20 to 11, have run afoul of nations seeking to defend military pride or civilian jobs.

Southern European nations in particular are fighting to hang on to their bases, with Spain and Greece at the heart of the dispute.

Robertson said he was confident an agreement would be found this week. He stressed governments had to put political considerations aside in the interest of the alliance.

"Military effectiveness can be the only criteria for NATO's command structures," he told a news conference in Spain ahead of the meeting. "If we're going to be able to properly meet the challenges that face us, we've got to have the structures that enable us to respond as speedily as possible."

Robertson also was pressing European allies to strengthen their militaries and start closing the gap with U.S. forces - pledges that were made at a summit last November in Prague, Czech Republic.

Signaling advances in at least some of those areas, allies are scheduled Thursday to sign "letters of intent" committing them to charter ferries and other cargo ships to boost the alliance's ability to send troops abroad.

A similar letter was due for signing on the leasing of large transport planes, a key shortfall for European allies. The allies are expected to go for a mixture of American-built C-17s leased directly from Boeing and Antonov 124s chartered from Ukraine.

Robertson has praised the allies' progress in finding a solution to the transport problem and on procuring precision-guided munitions and air-to-air refueling equipment.

However, his scorecard on their other military capabilities is less complimentary. He has awarded the allies just three out of ten on



Specialist Christopher L. Leedom Loretto, Kentucky of 1st. Platoon, B Company, 1-37 Armor 1st Armored Division plays with Iraqi children during his guard duty at the Hotel "Palestine" in Baghdad, on Wednesday, June 11, 2003. (AP Photo/ Mikhail Metzel)

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Spain pledges troops to Polish division continued

Poland joined NATO in 1999. Its troops have supported operations in the Balkans and in Afghanistan, providing important support in the war against global terrorism.

NATO officials said they will study the Polish deployment experience in Iraq carefully with an eye toward what lessons it would have for the NATO Reaction Force.

The reaction force will ultimately consist of 20,000 service members from NATO countries. It will be able to deploy out of the European area in days rather than months, it will be light and lethal, and NATO will be able to sustain the force in place for up to a year.

NATO defense ministers approved a concept of operations for the NATO Response Force during the defense planning committee meeting today. A senior defense official said there is strong

enthusiasm for the force, which has translated into its accelerated development. He said plans now call for an early capability by this fall and initial operational capability in fall 2004.

The NATO Reaction Force will also be a focal point for another important NATO initiative to develop new capabilities for the alliance. The official said the capabilities needed to create the reaction force represent the high-priority capabilities that nations need to invest in. He pointed specifically to strategic airlift and sealift as particularly important aspects.

NATO also must invest in secure communications technologies and precision-guided weapons.



South Korean Army Col. Yang Dong-il, left in camouflaged uniform, briefs North Korean officers on the working situation of the South side's railway in the demilitarized zone in Kosung, 200 kilometers (124 miles) east of Seoul, Wednesday, June 11, 2003. Military officials of North and South Korea traveled across their fortified border Wednesday for the first time since the Korean War to inspect each other's work on railways that will reconnect the two countries divided for more than a half century. (APPhoto)

Dispute over bases threatens NATO reforms continued

ground surveillance and combat support, NATO jargon for such unglamorous but essential equipment as field canteens and first aid centers needed to maintain troops in the field.

The secretary-general also has complained of foot-dragging on efforts to improve electronic jamming gear, secure communications and defenses against chemical, biological and nuclear attacks.



A policeman from the Special Rapid Reaction Force guards the road outside the Russian embassy in Nicosia, Wednesday, June 11, 2003. Security around the embassy, which lies across the road from that of the US has been stepped up following intelligence recieved by Cyprus police suggesting an attack by Chechens on Thursday, the Day of Russia. (AP Photo/Philip Mark)



Teacher's painting to be hung at Pentagon

By MALIA RULON

WASHINGTON (AP) - An Ohio art teacher's rough sketch of a firefighter handing an American soldier a flag has circled the Internet, turned up on T-shirts and caught the Defense Department's attention.

On Thursday, an oil painting of the image, called "I'll take it from here," was to go on permanent display at the Army Operations Center in the Pentagon.

Jeff Grier first drew the image in pencil on scratch paper at his home, having gotten the idea from a fellow teacher, Tom Hernan, in the week after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"I was so moved by all the firemen rushing in and just their bravery. Also, there was a sense that there was going to be some strong repercussions," Hernan said. "The idea was to tie the two together."

Grier's black and white sketch shows a firefighter emerging from a pile of rubble and handing off a flag to an American soldier. The background shows the New York City skyline, including the World Trade Center towers, and military aircraft.

"It's fascinating. You know if I had tried to plan something with this kind of publicity, it would never have happened," Grier said. "It really did touch a nerve with people and that's all I could hope for."

Grier and Hernan made 3,000 T-shirts, which they gave away or sold for \$10 each. They donated \$14,000 in profits to a group that helps family members and surviving spouses of a special forces unit based at Fort Campbell, Ky.



A U.S. soldier uses a towel to stay cool while sitting on an armoured vehicle outside Baghdad's Hotel Palestine where temperatures reached 115 degrees Farenheit on Wednesday June 11, 2003. (AP Photo/ Mikhail Metzel).

U.S. on terror watch near Horn of Africa continued

where the United States was pursuing members of the al-Qaida terrorist network.

The bulletin said coalition forces are on patrol in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman and Arabian Gulf.

The Bahrain-based 5th fleet has more than 60 warships under its command.

"Anyone suspected of assisting or transporting terrorists should expect to be boarded, and will risk the sinking or seizure of vessel, and will be detained and jailed," the bulletin said.

www.goarmy.com

Savings bonds will soon be converted to electronic accounts

by Roger Harnack, Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Say so long to paper.

The federal Treasury Department plans to convert paper U.S. savings bonds to electronic accounts within the next three years.

“This is an important step in our efforts to modernize the savings bond program through e-commerce,” Treasury Under Secretary for Domestic Finance Peter R. Fisher said in a written statement. “Our goal is to transform the savings bond program from one based on paper certificates to accounts accessed safely, and conveniently over the Internet.”

While that may mean dramatic changes for civilian investors, military personnel likely will notice little difference.

Defense Finance and Accounting Service Disbursement Technician Coultier Hillman Jr. said Tuesday from his civilian office in Indianapolis that most military personnel buying savings bonds — EE or I series — already do so electronically through the agency’s “safekeeping” program.

Hillman estimated that 30 percent of military personnel invest in savings bonds during their service.

Under the safekeeping program, personnel in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps can buy electronic bonds and have them stored as such through their respective branch of the military, he said.

“We still mail [paper] bonds, but it’s down from large numbers to small numbers,” Hillman said, adding savings-bond investors consider electronic accounts “efficient.”

While paper notes no longer will be available to purchase once the transformation is complete, their electronic replacements will be available online from a federal Web site, federal officials say.

Paper notes will remain redeemable indefinitely.

Buying bonds electronically eliminates the “goof-ups of paper bonds being undeliverable,” Hillman said. “Electronic bonds are safer. A lot of soldiers have turned the corner and say ‘store them [electronically] for me.’”

Hillman says he expects the major difference troops to see after savings bonds become electronic will be in how they are redeemed.

Currently, military personnel cash in electronic bonds by requesting paper bonds be issued, he said. The bonds are printed at a Federal Reserve Bank then mailed to investors for redemption at banks and credit unions.

Although an electronic bond redemption system for troops has yet to be set up, the Treasury Department already has an electronic bond program available called Treasury Direct.

Treasury Direct allows investors to buy EE bonds online and redeem

them through an electronic-funds transfer to a designated financial account, such as checking or savings accounts.

“It’ll also save the government paper, time and space,” Hillman added.



Information on Treasury Direct is available at www.treasurydirect.gov.

Military personnel and other investors also may note differences in buying bonds for gifts.

Neither Hillman nor officials at National Military Family Association can say what those differences will be; they’re waiting to see the Treasury Department’s plan.

Treasury officials currently are developing the system, which they say likely will be similar to its Treasury Direct program.

More information about investing in U.S. Savings Bonds is available from Defense Finance and Accounting Service representatives within each service or online at www.savingsbonds.gov.



An Iraqi orphan boy sleeps under an M-1 Abram tank to avoid the sun in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday. AP photo by Mikhail Metzel.

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CFLCC SAFETY GRAM



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?



IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE IT COULD LOOK LIKE THIS!

- WHY AREN'T EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL (EOD) SOLDIERS SUPERVISING THIS OPERATION?
- WHY AREN'T SOLDIERS WEARING FULL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE- KEVLAR HELMET, VEST WITH SAPI PLATES AND PROTECTIVE EYE WEAR)?
- WHY ARE SOLDIERS WALKING ON EXPLOSIVES THAT COULD DETONATE?
- WHERE ARE THE RISK ASSESSMENT/RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES BEING TAKEN?

RISK MITIGATION SAVES LIVES!

✓ SENIOR LEADERSHIP MUST ENSURE ALL PROCEDURES ARE TO STANDARD FOR OUR SOLDIER'S PROTECTION

(COMCFLCC **SAFETY ACTION MESSAGE 03** AND **V-CORPS FRAGO 484M** SAFE DESTRUCTION OF CEA)

✓ ENSURE THAT EOD SOLDIERS SUPERVISE ALL DEMOLITION OPERATIONS

✓ SOLDIERS HANDLING AMMUNITION WILL WEAR FULL PPE AT ALL TIMES

✓ DO NOT WALK ON OR KICK ANY EXPLOSIVES OR UXO

✓ APPLY RISK ASSESSMENT/RISK MANAGEMENT TO ALL CEA/DEMOLITION OPERATIONS